

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 43

Introduced by Assembly Members Bonilla and Williams

June 6, 2016

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 43—Relative to greenhouse gases.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 43, as introduced, Bonilla. Greenhouse gases: climate change.

This measure would urge the United States Congress to enact federal policies to further the effort to combat climate change.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
2 has stated in its recently released 5th Assessment Report, Climate
3 Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, that “[w]arming of the
4 climate system is unequivocal” and “[i]t is extremely likely that
5 human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed
6 warming since the mid-20th century”; and
7 WHEREAS, In May of 2013, the global atmospheric
8 concentration of carbon dioxide reached 400 parts per million, the
9 highest level in the last 800,000 years; and
10 WHEREAS, In May 2014, two separate scientific papers were
11 published in journals of Geophysical Research Letters documenting
12 dramatic retreats of Antarctic glaciers and predicting that
13 large-scale destruction of the West Antarctic ice sheets is likely
14 now inevitable and will lead to sea level rises of 10 feet or more;
15 and
16 WHEREAS, The 2013 Indicators of Climate Change in
17 California, released by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard

1 Assessment, found that continued warming of the atmosphere
2 would cause threats of flooding along the coastline of California;
3 threats to infrastructure, sewage systems, wetlands, and marine
4 life; increased ocean acidification; increased threats from wildfires;
5 threats to the water supply from decreased snow packs; increased
6 asthma and respiratory illness due to higher ozone levels; increased
7 insurance and mitigation costs; and negative impacts to the
8 agriculture, fishing, and tourism industries; and

9 WHEREAS, Conservative estimates by climate scientists
10 throughout the world state that, to achieve climate stabilization
11 and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse
12 gases must be brought to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The California Global Warming Solutions Act of
15 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the
16 Health and Safety Code) commits the state to reduce greenhouse
17 gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and the Governor's
18 Executive Order S-3-05 further calls on the state to establish a
19 policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below
20 1990 levels by 2050; and

21 WHEREAS, The California Global Warming Solution Act of
22 2006 has reached its 10-year anniversary and the California
23 economy remains strong; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States needs powerful new policies to
25 meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals established in
26 the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
28 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature hereby urges the United
29 States Congress to enact federal policies that mirror the California
30 Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 to further the effort to
31 combat climate change throughout the United States; and be it
32 further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
34 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
35 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
36 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
37 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
38 author for appropriate distribution.

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